

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion product vending device; said attached companion product vending device delivering at least one first product purchased by a user; said user initiating said purchase by conveying payment to said companion device and exercising an actuator; the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a control means for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one coupon in response to said exercising; said at least one coupon being redeemable for value in connection with purchasing at least one second product;
- (b) a providing means for effecting said dispensing; said providing means being coupled with said control means and responsive to said control means;
- (c) a direct link between the apparatus and said actuator for effecting said cooperation;
- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information;

~~An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion product vending device as recited in Claim 3 wherein said communication means comprises comprising a telephone connection with a remote controlling station~~

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5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. *cancelled*
(Withdrawn)

10. *Cancelled*
(Withdrawn)

11. *Cancelled*
(Withdrawn)

12. *Cancelled*
(Withdrawn)

13. *Cancelled*
(Withdrawn)

14. *Cancelled*
(Withdrawn)

16. *Cancelled*
(Withdrawn)17. *Cancelled*
(Withdrawn)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of a companion product vending device; said companion product vending device and the apparatus being assembled in a unitary configuration; said companion product vending device delivering at least one first product purchased by a user; said user initiating said purchase by conveying payment to said companion device and exercising an actuator; the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a control means for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one coupon in response to said exercising; said coupon being redeemable for value in connection with purchasing at least one second product;
- (b) a providing means coupled with said control means for effecting said dispensing;
- (c) a direct link between the apparatus and said actuator for effecting said cooperation;
- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus from outside the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information; An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of a companion product vending device as recited in Claim 22 wherein said communication means comprises comprising a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device; said vending device having an interior storage cavity for storing a plurality of units of a product and a door; said door being enabled for moving from a closed position to an open

position by a user conveying payment to said vending device; said cavity being accessible by said user when said door is in said open position; the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a control unit for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one coupon in response to said door moving from said closed position to said open position; said at least one coupon being redeemable for at least one product;
- (b) a providing means for effecting said dispensing; said providing means being coupled with said control means and responsive to said control means; and
- (c) a direct link between the apparatus and said door for effecting said cooperation.

29. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in Claim 28 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

30. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

31. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.

32. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in Claim 29 wherein said link is a mechanical link connecting said door with the apparatus.

36. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in Claim 29 wherein said link is an electronic link connecting said door with the apparatus.